

A3

Medium base oil	< 1.0	< 5 ppm	150 SUS
heavy base oil	< 1.5	< 5 ppm	300 SUS
still bottoms	n/a	n/a	n/a

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice, and add new claims 4-38 as follows:

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4. (New) A method for purifying used oil, comprising:
mixing the used oil with a phase transfer catalyst; and
removing contaminants from the used oil.
 5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises quaternary ammonium salts, polyol ethers, glycols, or crown ethers.
 6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises ethylene glycol.
 7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein removing contaminants from the used oil comprises distilling the motor oil at a temperature of about 200°C to about 275°C and a pressure of about 100 torr to about 200 torr.
 8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein removing contaminants from the used oil comprises distilling the motor oil at a temperature of about 275°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 0.2 torr.
 9. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein removing contaminants from the used oil comprises distilling the used oil at a temperature of about 200°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 200 torr.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising contacting the used oil with a base compound.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the base compound is an inorganic or organic base compound.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the inorganic base compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and combinations thereof.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a mixture of the used oil and phase transfer catalyst comprises about 1% to about 10% by weight of the phase transfer catalyst.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein a mixture of the used oil and base compound comprises about 1 % to about 10 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

15 (New) The method of claim 10, wherein a mixture of the used oil and base compound comprises about 0.5 % to about 5 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the used oil comprises motor oil.

17. (New) A method for removing contaminants from a petroleum distillate, comprising:

mixing the distillate with ethylene glycol; and

removing the contaminants from the distillate using means for distillation.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the petroleum distillate comprises motor oil.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein removing contaminants from the motor oil comprises distilling the distillate at a temperature of about 200°C to about 275°C and a pressure of about 100 torr to about 200 torr.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein removing contaminants from the motor oil comprises distilling the distillate at a temperature of about 275°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 0.2 torr.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein removing contaminants from the motor oil comprises distilling the distillate at a temperature of about 200°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 200 torr.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein a mixture of the distillate ethylene glycol comprises about 1% to about 10 % by weight of ethylene glycol.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising mixing the distillate and a base compound, wherein the mixture comprises about 1 % to about 10 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein a mixture of the used oil and base compound comprises about 0.5 % to about 5 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

25. (New) A method for removing contaminants from motor oil, comprising:
mixing the motor oil with ethylene glycol; and
distilling the motor oil at a temperature of about 200°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 200 torr.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising adding an inorganic base compound to the motor oil prior to mixing the motor oil with ethylene glycol.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the inorganic base compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and combinations thereof.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein a mixture of the motor oil and ethylene glycol comprises about 1 to about 10 % by weight of the ethylene glycol.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein a mixture of the motor oil and base compound comprises about 1 % to about 10 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein a mixture of the used oil and base compound comprises about 0.5 % to about 5 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

31. (New) A method for removing contaminants from motor oil, comprising:
mixing the motor oil with an inorganic base compound;
mixing the motor oil with a phase transfer catalyst; and then
distilling the motor oil at a temperature of about 200°C to about 275°C and a pressure of about 100 torr to about 200 torr.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the inorganic base compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and combinations thereof.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises quaternary ammonium salts, polyol ethers, glycols, or crown ethers.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises ethylene glycol.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising distilling the motor oil at a temperature of about 275°C to about 300°C and a pressure of about 0.05 torr to about 0.2 torr.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein a mixture of the motor oil and phase transfer catalyst comprises about 1 to about 10 % by weight of the phase transfer catalyst.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein a mixture of the motor oil and inorganic base compound comprises about 1 % to about 10 % by weight of the inorganic base compound in volume of solution.

38. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein a mixture of the used oil and base compound comprises about 0.5 % to about 5 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

REMARKS

Applicants submit this amendment for consideration prior to action on the pending claims. Applicants submit that the new claims presented above are fully supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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